



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE AGENTS SEIZE RECORD 13,421 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA, ARREST ONE SUSPECT

An on-going investigation nets almost 7 tons of marijuana, one suspect and two semi-trucks

HOUSTON – An on-going multi-agency investigation headed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) led to the seizure of two semi-trucks loaded with 13,421 lbs. of marijuana, and the arrest of Federico Luera, a truck driver yesterday afternoon.

The investigation led ICE agents to a truck yard in Galena Park. Agents discovered 9,100 lbs. of marijuana inside the first semi-truck. A search warrant obtained by ICE agents for the second truck resulted in seizing an additional 4,268 lbs. of marijuana.

“This investigation resulted in one of the largest marijuana seizures in Houston, if not, in the State of Texas,” said Joseph R. Webber, ICE special agent-in-charge. “The work and cooperation among the other law enforcement agencies resulted in this sizable bust.”

The estimated street value of the seizure is in excess of \$6 million.

The marijuana was discovered hidden inside the drywall compartments and flat bed liners of the trucks. ICE agents believe that this seizure is part of a large scale smuggling organization that distributed narcotics from the Houston area to other cities throughout the United States.

This seizure was the result of a multi-agency narcotics and money-laundering task force comprised of ICE, the Houston Police Department, Pasadena Police Department, the Harris County Sheriff's Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This is an on-going investigation. Photos of the seized narcotics are available upon request.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.